

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 ACDA-10 EB-03 PRS-01 MC-01 EUR-08

L-01 /060 W

----- 091517

R 081345Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5174

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T BEIRUT 8591

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, MASS

SUBJECT: IRREGULAR ARMS SHIPMENT - USG'S NON-INVOLVEMENT THEREIN

1. THIS MORNING, JULY 8, A 707 CARGO CONFIGURED AIRCRAFT,
TAIL NUMBER N-723PA, OWNED OR CHARTERED BY "UNITED INDUSTRIES"
LANDED BEIRUT AND BEGAN OFF-LOADING UNMARKED OLIVE DRAB FOOTLOCKER
SIZE CASES INTO OLIVE DRAB TRUCKS. INDIVIDUAL IN CHARGE OF
OPERATION WAS A WELL KNOWN GUN RUNNER NAMED SARKIS. UPON SEEING
TAIL NUMBER AND UPON BEING APPROACHED FOR CONVEYER BELT
ASSISTANCE, LOCAL PAN AM EMPLOYEE
APPROACHED SARKIS. LATTER TOLD THEM THAT USE OF PAN
AM EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH EMBASSY AND DOCUMENTS COVERING
SHIPMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO EMBASSY. PAN AM AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY
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CONTACTED EMBASSY.

2. THROUGH NORMAL INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS WE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT A SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS FOR PIERRE GEMAYEL'S PHALANGE MILITIA WAS EXPECTED IN BEIRUT TODAY. IT THEREFORE DID NOT REPEAT NOT REQUIRE MUCH INTUITION FOR US TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER. UPON LEARNING OF SARKIS' ALLEGATION, I CALLED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BOUTROS DIB AND INFORMED HIM OF THE APPROACH MADE TO PAN AM AND THE RUMOR AT THE AIRPORT THAT THIS SHIPMENT OF ARMS WAS FOR THIS MISSION. TOLD BOUTROS DIB THAT SHIPMENT WAS NONE OF MY BUSINESS. IT WAS, HOWEVER, MY BUSINESS THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS MIGHT TRYING TO EMBROIL THIS MISSION IN INTERNAL LEBANESE POLITICAL-MILITARY MACHINATIONS. I THEREFORE WISHED IN STRONGEST TERMS TO DISASSOCIATE MY GOVERNMENT WITH THIS MATTER AND TO BE SURE THAT NO RESPONSIBLE LEBANESE WHO MIGHT TRY TO IMPLICATE US. DIB SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY. HE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED BACK TO CONFIRM THAT HE AND "OTHERS" REALIZED THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS SHIPMENT. HE HAD GIVEN APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AT THE AIRPORT TO ASSURE THAT WE WERE NOT IMPLICATED.

3. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO PRECISE INFORMATION REGARDING "UNITED INDUSTRIES", ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND IT IS SARKIS' COMPANY. BEFORE WE SPOKE TO HIM, LOCAL PAN AM REP SENT FLASH TO HIS SUPERIORS INQUIRING RE THE TITLE OF THE 707, FOR THE TAIL NUMBER DID INDICATE ONE TIME PAN AM OWNERSHIP. WE ARE REPEATING FOREGOING WIDELY, FOR IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT UNFRIENDLY PRESS MAY PICK IT UP AND WE WISH ALL CONCERNED TO REALIZE THAT THIS SHIPMENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR GOVERNMENT. (INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE INDICATES AIRCRAFT WAS CARRYING, INTER ALIA, AK 47'S PURCHASED IN WARSAW AND SHIPPED HERE SOMEHOW OR OTHER VIA MADRID.)

4. WE HAVE TOLD LOCAL PANAM REPS WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS SHIPMENT. PANAM REPS TAKING SIMILAR POSITION.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, ARMS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT08591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0953
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750774/aaaacoiv.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRREGULAR ARMS SHIPMENT - USG'S NON-INVOLVEMENT THEREIN
TAGS: PINS, MASS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006